HO-7

Union Chapel (St. Andrew's Episcopal Church)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 02-03-2017

HO-7
Union Chapel
Northwest corner Route 97 and Union Chapel Road
Private

Description:

Union Chapel is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Route 97 and Union Chapel Road in western Howard County, Maryland. The church is set back from both roads, in the middle of a rise, and faces west toward Route 97. It is a one-story, three-bay by two-bay roughcast stone structure with a gable roof that has a north-south ridge and wood shingles. There is an interior brick chimney with a bishop's cap on the north and south gable ends, centered on the ridge. There is a modern one-story addition covering the northern third of the west elevation and continuing to the north of the main building. The east elevation has two stories, or tiers, of openings. The lower tier has double doors and a five-light transom, in the north and south bays, while the center bay has a tripartite sash with a twelve-over-twelve in the center and a three-over-three to each side. The upper tier center bay matches the first story, while the north and south bays have a twelve-over-twelve sash. On the west elevation the center bay projects, creating a chancel, and the roof continues at the same pitch over this projection. This projection contains a tripartite window with stained glass. The interior is one open space laid out in a meetinghouse plan with a gallery on the north, east, and south sides that is supported on columns, and a chancel on the west. The pulpit sits at the west side of the sanctuary, between the pews and the chancel. It is on a raised dais that has a paneled front. There are winder stairs in the northwest and southwest corners. The northwest stair is completely rebuilt, and there is no evidence of any earlier stair here. The southwest stair is built with cut nails and has modern reinforcement added.

Significance:

Union Chapel was built in 1833 and was intended to be a non-denominational church run by ten trustees, five of whom were Methodists and the remainder of other faiths. The earliest reference to the name Union Chapel was in January 1837, though it was clearly intended to function as one from the beginning. The chapel is a remarkably well-preserved example of a meeting house from the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The chapel increasingly came under the use of the Methodists, until it was often perceived as a Methodist church. By the mid 1950s the church was vacant and deteriorating. A committee was formed in 1965 to promote preservation of the building, and the first phase of restoration was completed in 1980. The following year St. Peter's Church in Ellicott City began a mission church, known as St. Andrew's, in western Howard County and started to use the building for services while assisting in the completion of the renovations.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-7

1. Name of Property   (indicate preferred name)

historic	Union Chapel
other	

2. Location

street and number	Northwest corner Route 97 and Union Chapel Road	__ not for publication
city, town	Glenwood	__ vicinity
county	Howard	

3. Owner of Property   (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Union Chapel Church c/o Fred Coover, President		
street and number	10500 Little Patuxent Parkway, Ste. 420 Parkside Building	telephone	410-750-7600
city, town	Columbia state MD	zip code	21044

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse	liber	WSG 18 folio 183
city, town Annapolis tax map 14 tax parcel 37	tax ID number	

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

_____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
_____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
_____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
_____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
_____ Other:_____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count		
____district	____public	____agriculture	____landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing	
_X_ building(s)	_X_ private	____commerce/trade	____recreation/culture	1	0	buildings
____structure	____both	____defense	_X_ religion	0	0	sites
____site		____domestic	____social	0	0	structures
____object		____education	____transportation	0	0	objects
		____funerary	____work in progress	1	0	Total
		____government	____unknown			
		____health care	____vacant/not in use			
		____industry	____other:			

**Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory**

1

7. Description

Condition

<u>X</u> excellent   ___ deteriorated
___ good   ___ ruins
___ fair   ___ altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary:

Union Chapel is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Route 97 and Union Chapel Road in western Howard County, Maryland. The church is set back from both roads, in the middle of a rise, and faces west toward Route 97. It is a one-story, three-bay by two-bay roughcast stone structure with a gable roof that has a north-south ridge and wood shingles. There is an interior brick chimney with a bishop's cap on the north and south gable ends, centered on the ridge. There is a modern one-story addition covering the northern third of the west elevation and continuing to the north of the main building. The east elevation has two stories, or tiers, of openings. The lower tier has double doors and a five-light transom, in the north and south bays, while the center bay has a tripartite sash with a twelve-over-twelve in the center and a three-over-three to each side. The upper tier center bay matches the first story, while the north and south bays have a twelve-over-twelve sash. On the west elevation the center bay projects, creating a chancel, and the roof continues at the same pitch over this projection. This projection contains a tripartite window with stained glass. The interior is one open space laid out in a meetinghouse plan with a gallery on the north, east, and south sides that is supported on columns, and a chancel on the west. The pulpit sits at the west side of the sanctuary, between the pews and the chancel. It is on a raised dais that has a paneled front. There are winder stairs in the northwest and southwest corners. The northwest stair is completely rebuilt, and there is no evidence of any earlier stair here. The southwest stair is built with cut nails and has modern reinforcement added.

Description:

Union Chapel is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Route 97 and Union Chapel Road in western Howard County, Maryland. The church is set back from both roads, in the middle of a rise, and faces west toward Route 97. It is a one-story, three-bay by two-bay roughcast stone structure with a gable roof that has a north-south ridge and wood shingles. There is an interior brick chimney with a bishop's cap on the north and south gable ends, centered on the ridge. There is a modern one-story addition covering the northern third of the west elevation and continuing to the north of the main building.

The east elevation has two stories, or tiers, of openings. The lower tier, in the south bay, has double doors with four panels on each, and the panels have sunken fields and no panel moulds. There is one panel on each jamb, and it matches the doors. The transom bar has a triple broken field with a bead at the bottom and a Greek ovolo at the top. There is a five-light transom and one panel on the soffit and on each transom jamb, and they also match the doors. The door frame has a bullnose. There is a granite sill. The center bay has a tripartite sash with a twelve-over-twelve in the center and a three-over-three to each side. It has a wood sill and a bullnose frame. The north bay has a doorway that is identical to the south bay. The upper tier center bay matches the first story, while the north and south bays have a twelve-over-twelve sash with a wood sill and a bullnose frame.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-7

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number _7_ Page 1

The north elevation has two typical twelve-over-twelve sash on the lower tier and no openings in the upper tier of the gable end. The south elevation is identical to the north. On the west elevation the center bay projects, creating a chancel, and the roof continues at the same pitch over this projection. This projection contains a tripartite window with stained glass. The south side of the chancel has stained glass in a rectangular opening. The north side is identical, but is now within the addition. The south bay has double doors with three panels each, with sunken fields and no panel moulds. There is a granite sill and bullnose frame. The north bay is now within the addition, but is identical to the south bay except that the sill is now covered by new tile.

The interior is one open space laid out in a meetinghouse plan with a gallery on the north, east, and south sides that is supported on columns, and a chancel on the west. The flooring is new 3 ¼-inch pine and the baseboard appears to all be new, as well. The windows have splayed jambs and no architrave, and the sash have ovolo muntins, 8-inch by 10-inch lights, and no parting beads. They are mortised and tenoned and pinned. The walls are plaster on masonry. On the north, east, and south walls are cast iron brackets with glass oil lamps that are now electrified. The ceiling is plaster on expanded metal lath. The door architrave has a cavetto on the outer edge that appears to be added, with a Greek ogee backband that also appears to be added, and a beaded interior edge that appears to be original. The doors are mortised and tenoned and pinned and have no panel moulds on the interior side, either. They have plain cast iron rim locks with porcelain knobs and cast iron butts labeled "THO^S CLARK". The transom is mortised and tenoned and pinned. The wood columns of the gallery are one solid piece, with a boxed plinth and a cavetto mould at the top. The two center eastern columns are cut out at the bottom, on an angle that is the same as the angle on the pew backs, for two pews to have been pushed back into the cut. The pews appear to be original, but have been cut down in length, and two pews have a triangular ghost in the center of the back where there is little oxidation of the wood; this marks the spot that was set into the cut on the columns. The pews are loose and are now arranged in three columns.

There are two run plaster ceiling medallions, and they have a large bead on the inner ring and a fillet and quirked Greek ovolo on the outer ring. The pulpit sits at the west side of the sanctuary, between the pews and the chancel. It is on a raised dais that has a paneled front. Three panels have been cut out for vents, but the remaining panels are sunken and flat and have a half-round panel mould with a fillet inside of it. There are three steps at the north and south ends of the dais. The pulpit front has four panels that match the dais front, with a railing on top that has an ogee bed mould. There is a new lectern shelf on top of the railing. The back side of the pulpit is sash-sawn, and the rails and stiles are mortised and tenoned and pinned. The beveled panel backs are hand-planed. There is an altar rail in front of the pulpit, on three sides, with rounded corners. It has a natural varnished finish and newels at either end that have the top cut back in a series of fillets like the newels on the gallery (see below). The balusters are round. The railing appears to have been rebuilt with some old pieces.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-7

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number _7_ Page 2

The chancel opening in the west wall has a three-radius segmental arch with engaged half-columns on each side that sit on the step, with no plinth. The arch architrave appears to have a quirked Greek ogee on top, two lancet mouldings in the center, and a quirked Greek ogee and bead on the bottom. The jambs of the chancel are splayed. The west wall has old glass, while the sides have a geometric pattern. The center window contains figural glass of Christ with Martha and Mary. It shows Christ sitting in a chair, with a woman sitting before Him, a table in the background, and a woman holding a tray standing next to the table. The inscription below the window reads: "In Memory of James B. Mathews 1887 and Kitty G. Mathews 1884." The window is not signed.

The gallery railing has imposts with oval panels above the columns, and flat sunken panels between that have a cavetto and bead mould. Above the imposts are newels with a slight taper, and the top is cut back in a series of fillets. There are round balusters that are similarly cut back at the top, and a flat railing. There are winder stairs in the northwest and southwest corners. The northwest stair is completely rebuilt, and there is no evidence of any earlier stair here. The southwest stair is built with cut nails and has modern reinforcement added. The newel is turned and slightly tapered, and cut back in a series of fillets at the top. There is a plain open stringer with square balusters and a ¾ round handrail. There is a bead board door on plain cast iron butt hinges. The gallery has a flat floor to the interior, and is built up by one step on the rear 2/3rds. There is one pew in place on the north and south sides, and it sits on this step. There is a hatch to the attic in the southeast corner.

The attic framing has a hewn summer beam 11 inches square that runs north-south, with a post on top of it, in the center, which is pegged into the beam. There is a strut on each side of the post that is 6 inches square and hewn, and runs from near the top of the post down to the summer where it meets the wall. There are log joists running from the top of the east and west walls to the summer. They are hewn square near the summer, with a tenon into the summer. The rafters have a birds-mouth cut at the foot and are set on a false plate, but aligned with the joists. They are sash-sawn and have an open-faced bridle and peg at the ridge. There are two sets of collar beams for each rafter couple, and they are half-lapped and nailed with cut nails. Both the north and south walls have bricks set rowlock and toothed into the stone wall in the center to create a chimney flue in the thickness of the stone wall.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philosophy
X 1800-1899	X architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
__ 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce	recreation	__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ ethnic heritage	__ literature	__ social history
	__ community planning	__ exploration/	__ maritime history	__ transportation
	__ conservation	settlement	__ military	__ other: _____

Specific dates	N/A	**Architect/Builder**	N/A
Construction dates	1833		

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register   _____ Maryland Register   ____X____ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary:

Union Chapel was built in 1833 and was intended to be a non-denominational church run by ten trustees, five of whom were Methodists and the remainder of other faiths. The earliest reference to the name Union Chapel was in January 1837, though it was clearly intended to function as one from the beginning. The chapel is a remarkably well-preserved example of a meeting house from the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The chapel increasingly came under the use of the Methodists, until it was often perceived as a Methodist church. By the mid 1950s the church was vacant and deteriorating. A committee was formed in 1965 to promote preservation of the building, and the first phase of restoration was completed in 1980. The following year St. Peter's Church in Ellicott City began a mission church, known as St. Andrew's, in western Howard County and started to use the building for services while assisting in the completion of the renovations.

Significance:

The traditional history of Union Chapel, recounted in Richard Rivoire's original survey of the church in 1974, states that the church was built in 1833 on land donated by local planter Charles D. Warfield two years earlier. In reality, James B. Mathews donated a half acre to Warfield, who then gave this and a half acre of his own land to the trustees of the church to create the lot. A history of the church written in 1983 states that "James B. Mathews, Treasurer of the Building Committee, meticulously recorded, among other things, the accounting of the construction expenses" and that they were "lovingly cared for by members of the Mathews family." These records would be invaluable for both the history of the church and for the history of the building trades in Howard County, but unfortunately, the current trustees do not know of their location and a search for them has not uncovered their location. The accounting began in June 1833 and the total cost of construction was $1,459.47. The church was intended to be a non-denominational church run by ten trustees, five of whom were Methodists and the remainder of other faiths. The earliest reference to the name Union Chapel was in January 1837, though it was clearly intended to function as one from the beginning. Money was collected for painting the church in 1840, and in 1840-41 additional funds were collected for putting in new sleepers and repairing

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number _8_ Page 1

---

the floor. That the building would need repairs in at most seven years is remarkable. The accounts apparently stopped in 1842 and were not resumed until 1873.[1]

The chapel is a remarkably well-preserved example of a meeting house from the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Though the benches have been moved and some of them cut down, the building itself retains the meeting house plan with the pulpit on the long rear wall, and with two separate entrances on the long front wall, that was popular at this time among Methodists and some other evangelical protestant denominations. These buildings tend to be very domestic in appearance, especially in this case with what appears from the exterior to be a full second story. The use of an apse was unusual for this plan type, however, and its existence here suggests that other influences were also in play. There were originally stoves at either gable end of the building to heat the interior, with the flues built into the stone walls; the use of heating was still new for rural churches, and often controversial when added to existing buildings, and one wonders whether the trustees had issues with it in this case. One of the two stairways to the original gallery is original, and though there was no visible evidence that the other corner also had a matching stairway, a second staircase would not be unusual, especially given the size of the three-sided gallery. Tripartite windows are used on both the front, in the center bay, and in the back of the apse. They can be found on "Old Brick" Episcopal Church (HO-35) and on "Oakland" (HO-32), both c. 1810-11, but were never very common in Howard County and thus provide an element of high style to the otherwise simple exterior.

The chapel increasingly came under the use of the Methodists, until it was often perceived as a Methodist church. It was under the Anne Arundel Charge of the Methodist Church until 1842, and then came under the newly organized Howard Circuit. This circuit split in 1886, and the church then became part of the Lisbon Circuit. By the mid 1950s the church was vacant and deteriorating. A committee was formed in 1965 to promote preservation of the building. The trustees began raising money for restoration of the building in the 1970s and the first phase was completed in 1980. This included replacing the roof and floor. Accounts note that the original wall sconces had been vandalized and needed to be replaced, but that the original chandeliers were awaiting re-installation. One of the gallery columns was replaced, part of the balcony had fallen, and one of the staircases had to be completely rebuilt, based on lines left in the plaster. Part of the funding for the restoration came from the Maryland Historical Trust, and as a result an easement has been placed on the building. The following year St.

---

[1] Ann Arundel County Land Records, WSG 18-182, WSG 18-183. Interviews with Amy Kopec, assistant to Chip Coover, 2 July 2012 and 4 December 2012. Marguerite Ridgely Sargent, "The 150th Anniversary Union Chapel, 1833-1983," typescript, 1983.

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number _8_ Page 2

Peter's Church in Ellicott City began a mission church, known as St. Andrew's, in western Howard County and started to use the building for services while assisting in the completion of the renovations.[2]

Ground was broken for the addition to the rear of the church in 1993. This provided bathrooms, a foyer, and a meeting room for the church.

---

[2] Marguerite Ridgely Sargent, "The 150th Anniversary Union Chapel." Marie Lehnert, "Funds Run Out for 1822 Meeting Hall." *Baltimore Sun*, 14 September 1980, p. HS-1. Irene Rogers, "Restoration Efforts Begin at Union Chapell [sic]". [*Ellicott City Times?*], 8 October 1981. Clipping in the files of the Howard County Historical Society. Mary Atwater, "Old Union Chapel Takes on New Looks and New Life as St. Andrew's." *Baltimore Sun*, 17 May 1981, p. HS-3. Carville L. Collins, "Union Chapel Misrepresented." *Baltimore Sun*, 7 June 1981, p. HS-4. Stuart Low, "Restored Union Chapel to Celebrate 150th Anniversary." *Baltimore Sun*, 6 July 1983, p. HS-7.

See footnotes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property   1 A.
Acreage of historical setting   1 A.
Quadrangle name   Woodbine   Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the outlines of the property, tax map 14, parcel 37, which encompasses all of the historic buildings and features on the site.
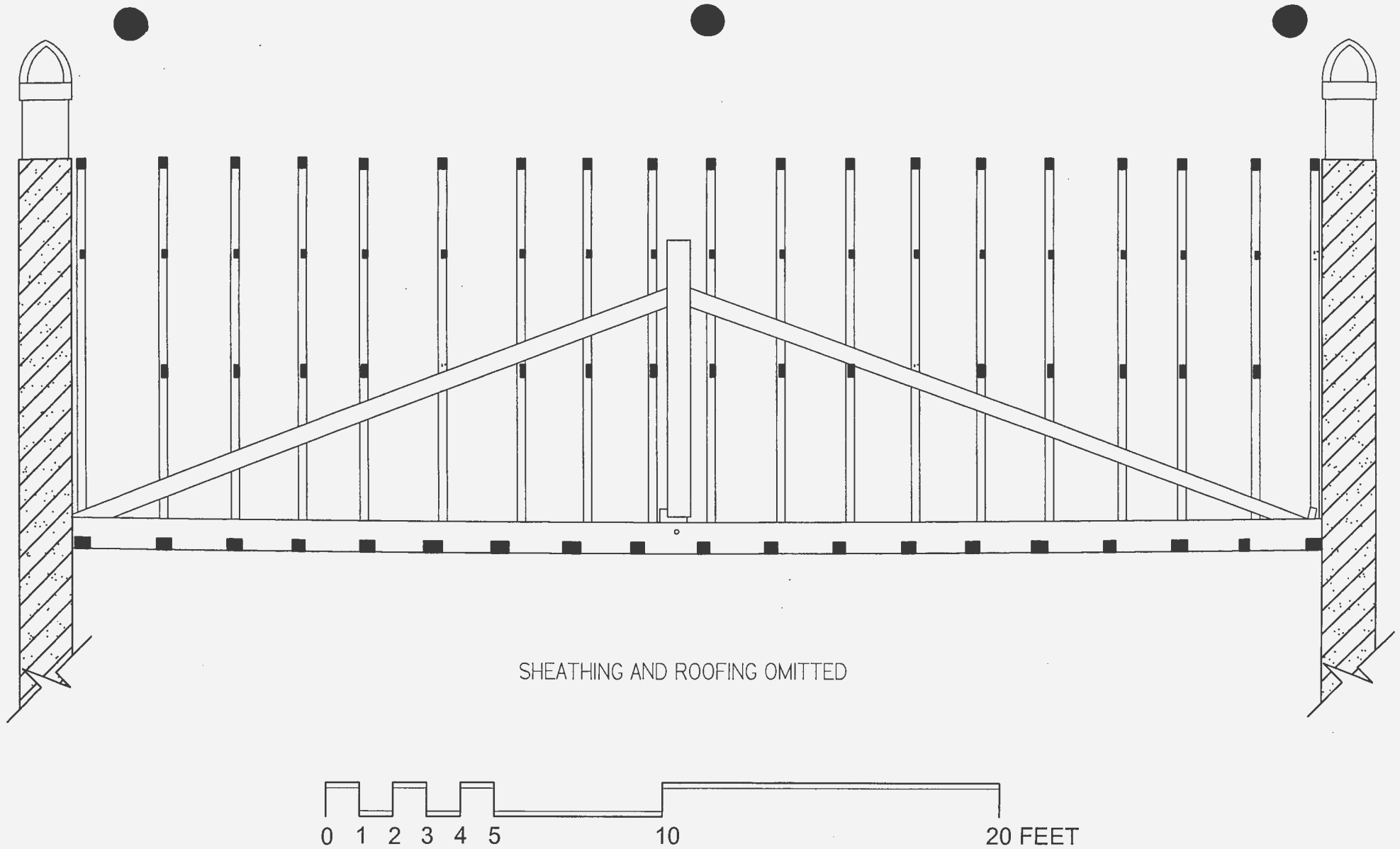
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	February 2013
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

SHEATHING AND ROOFING OMITTED

0 1 2 3 4 5   10   20 FEET

HO-7 UNION CHAPEL ROUTE 97 & UNION CHAPEL ROAD

ROOF FRAMING SECTION -- MEASURED BY KEN SHORT & STEVE ROLLS -- DRAWN BY KEN SHORT -- JUNE 2012

Union Chapel
Northwest corner Route 97 and Union Chapel Road
Howard County, Maryland
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log
    Nikon D-70 camera
    HP Premium Plus paper
    Epson Matte Black UltraChrome ink cartridge

HO-0007_2012-06-14_01
East & north elevations

HO-0007_2012-06-14_02
West and south elevations
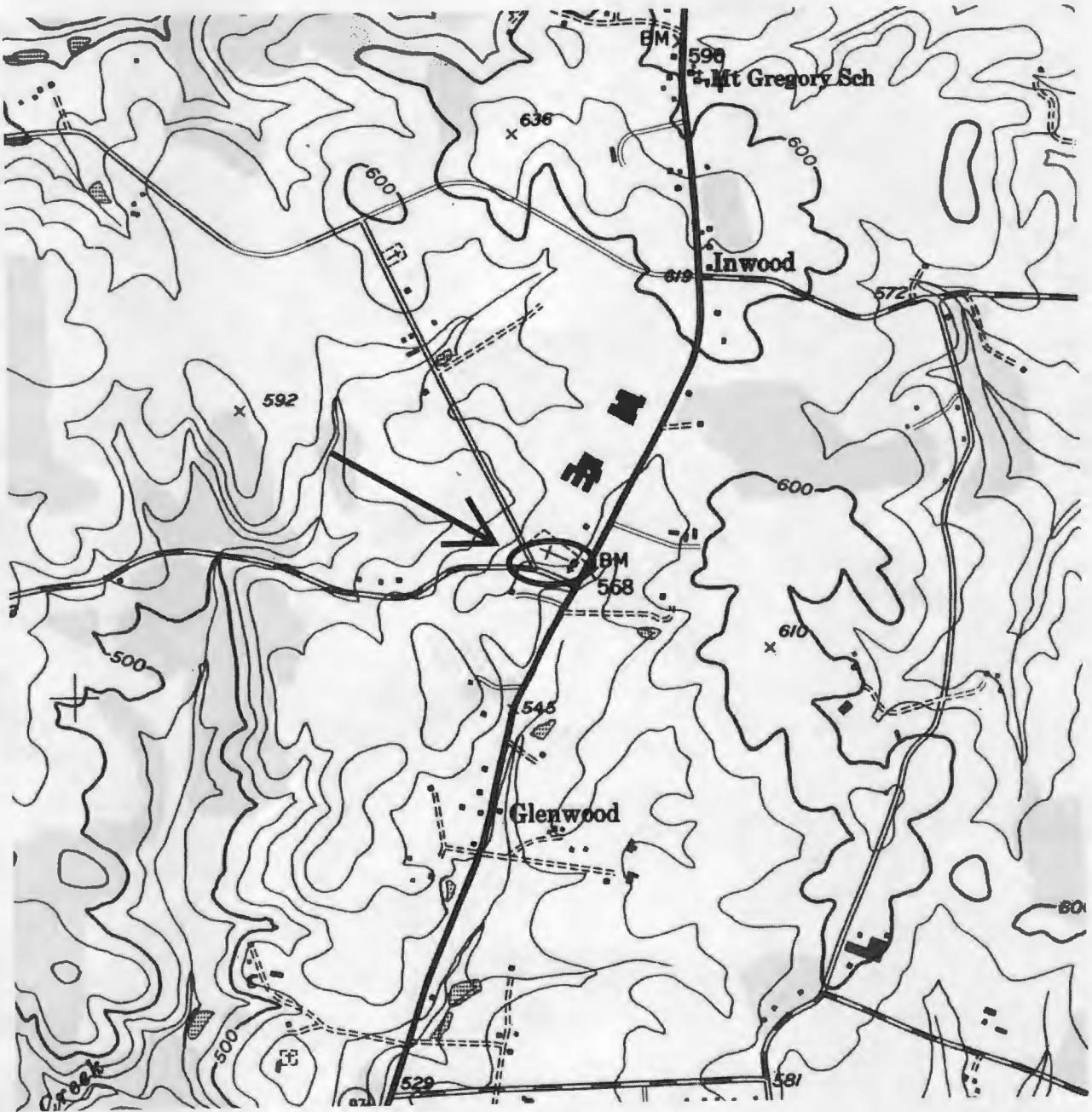

HO-0007_2012-06-14_03
Interior, view southeast

HO-0007_2012-06-14_04
Interior, view southwest

HO-0007_2012-06-14_05
Interior, gallery railing detail

HO-0007_2012-06-14_06
Interior, chancel window

HO-0007_2012-06-14_07
Interior, ceiling medallion

HO-0007_2012-06-14_08
Attic framing, view northwest

HO-7
Union Chapel
Northwest corner Route 97 and Union Chapel Road
Woodbine quad

HO-7

Union Chapel

Northwest corner Route 97 and Union
Chapel Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2012-06-14

MD SHPO

East + north elevations

1 of 8

HO-7

Union Chapel

Northwest corner Route 97 and Union
Chapel Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2012-06-14

MD SHPO

West & south elevations

2 of 8

HO-7

Union Chapel

Northwest corner Route 97 and Union
Chapel Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2012-06-14

MD SHPO

Interior, view Southeast

3 of 8

HO-7

Union Chapel

Northwest corner Route 97 and Union
Chapel Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2012-06-14

MD SHPO

Interior, view southwest

4 of 8

HO-7

Union Chapel

Northwest corner Route 97 and Union
Chapel Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2012-06-14

MD SHPO

Interior, gallery railing detail

5 of 8

IN MEMORY OF
JAMES B MATHEWS 1887
AND
KITTY G MATHEWS 1884

HO-7

Union Chapel

Northwest corner Route 97 and Union
Chapel Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2012-06-14

MD SHPO

Interior, chancel window

6 of 8

HO-7

Union Chapel

Northwest corner Route 97 and Union
Chapel Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2012-06-14

MD SHPO

Interior, ceiling medallion

7 of 8

HO-7
Union Chapel
Northwest corner Route 97 and Union
                              Chapel Road

Howard County, Maryland
Ken Short
2012-06-14
MD SHPO
Attic framing, view northwest
8 of 8

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE:
Maryland

COUNTY:
Howard

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries · complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Union Chapel

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
(Roxbury Mills Road)
West side of Md. Route 97, 1 mile north of Glenwood

CITY OR TOWN:
Glenwood

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Sixth

STATE
Maryland

CODE
24

COUNTY:
Howard

CODE
027

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both **Public Acquisition:** ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☒ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☒ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☒ Other *(Specify)*
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious   vacant
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Trustees of the Union Chapel

STREET AND NUMBER:
Union Chapel

CITY OR TOWN:
Glenwood

STATE:
Maryland

CODE
24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Howard County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Ellicott City

STATE
Maryland

CODE
24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

(vertical text in right margin: Maryland / Howard — STATE / COUNTY — FOR NPS USE ONLY)

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☒ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed

	(Check One)		(Check One)	
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Union Chapel is situated on the west side of Maryland
Route 97, approximately two and one-half miles south of the
Intersection of Route 97 and Interstate 70 N, and one mile
north of Glenwood, in Howard County and is easily recog-
nizable for its strikingly simple yet interesting detail.
It stands on a slight rise of land adjacent to the main
road. To the rear of the chapel is the attractively land-
scaped non-sectarian Oak Grove cemetery.

Completed in 1833 the rectangular two-story building
is of stuccoed stone construction. The principal facade
faces east and is three bays across at both the first
and second floor levels. The first story, which is fronted
by a masonry stoop extending the width of this elevation
and ascended by several steps, has a centered triple
window of twelve over twelve double hung sash flanked
by narrower or of three over three sash. Flanking the window
are single, transomed doors. There are three windows
across the second floor. The center one is a near duplicate
of that below; has twelve over eight rather than twelve
over twelve panes. On either side, positioned above the
doors, are smaller windows of twelve over eight sash each.

Two first floor windows of twelve over eight sash
constitute the only openings in either of the end elevations.
On the rear elevation is a centered, one-story extension
that has a stained glass window, similar in size to the
two largest facade windows, on its back wall. On both
side walls of this shallow projection are narrow windows
of six over six sash that have been lowered about two
feet from their original positions. Other exterior detail
includes gable roof, with the rear slope extended to
accomodate the extension. At each end of the roof ridge
is a single flue stove chimney. The eave cornices on
both front and back are boxed and decorated with single
ogee moldings.

Much of the visual charm and architectural interest
of Union Chapel is its interior plan and detail, which has
survived in a relatively undisturbed state. The first
floor level consists of a single room with three sets of
pews separated by two aisles. On three sides (north, south,
and east) is a shallow balustraded gallery, supported by
turned tapered columns of the Doric order. Centered on
the rear (west) wall is an elevated platform with a balustrade
extending across its entire length. Occupying a central
position on the platform is a lecturn. Most of this reading
platform is situated within an alcove that is embellished
by half-round pilasters supporting a molded keystoned arch.
Flanking the reading platform were narrow enclosed stairs,
rising in two flights to the gallery. One of these stairs
was removed several years ago but the other remains intact.
The pews, all movable, are of a simple design with carpentry

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(See continuation sheet No. 1)

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Howard	

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Union Chapel

7.   DESCRIPTION, continued

details that indicate a later date than the remainder of the 1833 interior woodwork.

An interesting structural feature of Union Chapel is the roof and second floor ceiling framing, which employs a truss system to support the great expanse of ceiling. Extending across the building from end to end is a fourteen by fourteen inch beam that has an equally large post centrally positioned on it. Angled braces, extending up from each end of the beam to the upper sides of the post, prevent the beam and plastered ceiling from sagging. Sawn joists are morticed into the beam and lapped and pinned over the wall plates. The roof rafters, many of rough finished saplings, are morticed and tenoned at the ridge and butted and nailed onto the joist ends.

For several years Union Chapel has stood vacant and in an unprotected state. Thus the exposure of the interior has taken its toll in extensive deterioration. Nevertheless, at least seventy percent of the interior woodwork is salvageable and that which must be replaced can be accurately copied from surviving detail.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century
- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century
- ☐ 18th Century
- ☒ 19th Century
- ☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*   1833

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal
- ☐ Prehistoric
- ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☒ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation

- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music

- ☐ Political
- ☒ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation

- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other (Specify)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Union Chapel traces its history to 1831 when Charles D. Warfield, a member of a prominent Maryland family of the same surname that settled this region, deeded the property to the residents of the area for non-denominational church and community use. When the chapel was built in 1833 ten men were appointed trustees, five of them representing the Methodist church and five various other faiths. Although the building for many years served its intended functions it eventually became more and more closely associated with the Methodists and was with increasing frequency utilized by them as a chapel. Even today it is considered the property of the Methodist church, although the present members (nine) of the board of trustees retain near complete control over its future.

Although abandoned for several years and deteriorating rapidly, the trustees have begun taking actions towards securing a future for the chapel. They have boarded up the building and have begun the solicitation of funds for its restoration. At the present time there are plans for merging the Union Chapel with the non-sectarian Oak Hill cemetery, thus hopefully assuring the preservation of both.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mrs. Edwin Warfield Gramkow, Notes on Union Chapel, Howard County, files of the Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 1973.

Celia M. Holland, "Where the Prominent Rest in Peace," an article published in the Central Maryland News, October 15, 1964.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		39°	17	.42 "	77°	01	29 "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than one acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

J. Richard Rivoire, Field Surveyor

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Maryland Historical Trust	Feb. 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:

21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Annapolis	Maryland	24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐   State ☐   Local ☐

Name _____

Arthur C. Townsend

Title _State Historic Preservation Officer_

Date February 21, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

_____
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE *(Assigned by NPS)*
Union Chapel		

2. LOCATION

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Maryland	Howard	Glenwood

STREET AND NUMBER

West side of Md. Route 97, 1 mile north of Glenwood

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Tenney Mason	1974	Gaither, Maryland

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

east elevation

Form No. 10-301a
(7/72)

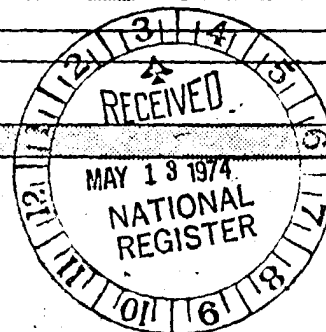UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Howard

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Union Chapel

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
West side of Md. Route 97, 1 mile north of Glenwood

CITY OR TOWN:
Glenwood

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Howard	027

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Michael Bourne

DATE OF PHOTO: Summer 1973

NEGATIVE FILED AT:
Maryland Historical Trust

4. IDENTIFICATION
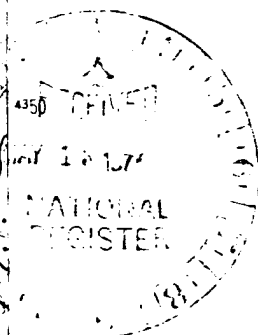
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

West elevation

RECEIVED
MAY 13 1974
NATIONAL
REGISTER

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1973-729-152/1446 III-1

Cooksville

Mt Gregory Sch

Inwood

Union chapel
39° 17' 42" lat.
77° 01' 29" long.

Glenwood

Branch

UNITED STATES

NATIONAL REGISTER

CHAPEL Howard Co.

Union Chapel

Michael Bourne   summer 1973
Anthony Oliver James

HO-7
union Chapel

HO - 7

UNION CHAPEL RESTORATION
Project #24-76-00446-00

Interior detail - speakers podium

5

HO-7
UNION CHAPEL RESTORATION
Project #24-76-00446-00

Woodwork detail - altar area